

# Sound and words united during the presentation of author, musician Gaby Mercera at the Instituto di Cultura



Last Thursday night, the Plaza Hubert (Lio) Booi at the Instituto di Cultura (ICA), Cultural Institute, situated right by the San Francisco Church in

"Mr. Gaby Mercera brings the history of Bonaire, his birthplace, to life in a creative way for all, giving honor to the 'Papiamentu language,'" Mr. Croes said.

"Gaby is preoccupied with the negative influence of technology and how this can kill the creativity, mostly among the youth. We have to demonstrate the will and assume the responsibility and dedicate ourselves more intensely on an ample basis on what we should do to maintain our culture alive. We at the ICA have the same beliefs," he added.

The second introduction was by Mrs. Muñe Oduber-Winklaar who elaborated on the work and message brought forward in the work of Mr. Mercera.

"The book contains 43 rhymes on education, customs, norms and morals in the society. The book contains a cd with the rhymes accompanied by different rhythms such as, 'bari,' 'mascarada,' 'simadan,' 'seu,' 'dansa,' 'tumba,' 'merengue,' 'calypso,' 'soca,' 'comparsa,' 'rap,' 'zúk,' and 'reggaeton.' The music on the cd is played by Mr. Mercera. Most of the instruments used were invented and handmade by him using material from nature or recycled material like his instrument made of plastic bottle caps tied together.

The presentation of Mr. Mercera is proof of the importance of integration of different materials like language, music, technique, movement and creative expression."

As Gaby Mercera explained, his book is a combination of elements from reality and fantasy bringing sense and meaning. This book is for young and old and was created through hard work and perseverance, "that's why I dedicate this book to my son, the youth and all those

with the same frame of mind as me."

Respect refers to respecting one another without taking into account race or color. The words in the title blend together to show the union and contact among each other. "In life we are usually separated by social standards, we have to stand together instead of being divided. Everybody should be equal and just like children have to respect their elders they also deserve respect from their elders.

"This book and cd are my message and contribution to our lively rhythmic race to stimulate the young to express themselves in a decent manner in the context of rhythm so they can learn the words, places and customs that exist from the past that they might not know about," he stated.

"To achieve something in life you have to be open, make the effort and start now. Don't sit and wait for others to do it. The more you know, the more you realize that you don't know enough yet. It is never too late to achieve your goals. If I could... everybody can," he concluded.

Afterwards the crowd was



Mr. Mercera, Rose Hasham and Arthur Kelly



Mrs. Roslyn Oduber, Director of the Department of Education; Mr. Mercera; and Mr. Frank Croes.

entertained live by Mr. Mercera, accompanied by two students, Rose Hasham and Arthur Kelly, who just the day before learned to play the instruments used this

evening. They presented various of his rhymes accompanied by rhythm from his book. Clapping their hands the guests accompanied the recital.



Mrs. Muñe Oduber-Winklaar

Oranjestad, was converted into an open air auditorium for the words and sounds of rhymes and rhythm of Gaby Mercera in the presentation of his book of rhymes, "Rèspètpagrandiichiki..," Respect for young and old.

Mr. Mercera is on the island, for the 10th anniversary of the E.P.B. School and also the 10th year that Papiamentu is being used at the school, as part of a project of Mrs. Muñe Oduber-Winklaar who is finishing her studies of "Papiamentu as a language." Mr. Mercera is a writer and music teacher on Bonaire.

In his introduction the Director of ICA, Mr. Frank Croes, described this wonderful person as a well rounded artist who combines words with sound to express the Dutch Antillean culture, which is also Aruban culture.